

Applicant : Ours et al.
Preliminary Amendment
Date Filed: 09/22/2003
Attorney No.: 60,527-037

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-18

19 **(Original)** A method for cutting open a case of product having a top and a bottom including the steps of:

placing the case on a first end of a conveyor belt;
moving the case to a top cutting apparatus using the conveyor belt;
cutting open the top of the case;
moving the case to a lift apparatus using the conveyor;
opening the top of the case;
lifting the product from the bottom of the case;
cutting the case thereby separating the bottom of the case from the top of the case.

20. **(Original)** A method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the step of cutting open the case includes the step of cutting the top of the box along first and second opposite sides of the top of the case.

21. **(Original)** A method, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the step of cutting open the case includes the step of cutting top cutting the top of the box from the first opposite side to the second opposite side.

22. **(Original)** A method for cutting open a case of product having a top and a bottom, including the steps of:

placing the case on a first end of a conveyor belt;
moving the case to a first top cutting apparatus using the conveyor belt;
cutting the top of the case along opposite sides of the top of the case;
moving the case to a second top cutting apparatus using the conveyor belt;
cutting the top of the case between the opposite sides;
moving the case to a lift apparatus using the conveyor;
opening the top of the case;
lifting the product from the bottom of the case; and,
cutting the case thereby separating the bottom of the case from the top of the

case.

23. **(New)** A method, as set forth in claim 19 including returning the product to the separated bottom of the case.

24. **(New)** A method as set forth in claim 22 including returning the product to the separated bottom of the case

25. (New) A method of cutting open a case having a top and a bottom and containing product comprising the steps of:

cutting open the top of the case, removing the product from the case through the open top,

cutting the bottom of the case,

separating the bottom from the case, and

returning the product to the separated bottom.

26. (New) A method of cutting open a case comprising the steps of:
cutting the top of the case along first and second sides,
cutting the top of the case between the first and second sides thereby cutting the top in a generally H-shaped pattern,

opening the top of the case,

lifting product from the case through the open top thereof,

separating the bottom of the remainder of the case, and

returning product to the separated bottom.